

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

Conservation Working Group
Meeting Minutes

October 17, 1996
Moss Landing Harbor District Office
Moss Landing, CA

Conservation Working Group members in attendance were: Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter); Melissa Hippard (Save Our Shores); Korie Johnson (Sea Grant/ Moss Landing Marine Labs); Jack Wickham (Sierra Club - Ventana Chapter); Karin Strasser Kauffman (Sanctuary Advisory Council); and Jane DeLay (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

I. CWG Administration

A) The minutes from the September 9, 1996 meeting were approved as presented.

B) Announcements and Other Meeting Dates:

- á Oct. 31, 1996 - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM - meeting on Marine Mammal strandings and forensics specialist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) to help educate about enforcement issues. Call Roy Torres at (831) 647-4220 for more information;
- á SOS - Half Moon Bay Chapter -- will be starting their second tier training for the Sanctuary Stewards; train them to do the slide show and more in the San Mateo County area;
- á Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO) -- public information session on Nov. 15 at the Santa Cruz Methodist Church from 6:30 -9:30 PM -- for people to find out about the coast program, an oil spill contingency program for volunteers, and to fill out the initial application; and,
- á FSO's annual meeting is at the Monterey Bay Aquarium from 7:00 -9:00 on Saturday, November 21.

C) The next meeting of the Conservation Working Group will be on Tuesday, November 19, 1996 at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office from 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

II. Sanctuary Office Report

Highlights of the Sanctuary office report included:

- á Joanne Flanders has taken Mark Pickett's place as Assistant Manager of the MBNMS; she will attend the next CWG meeting;
- á Stephanie Thornton, Chief of the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division will be visiting Monterey on October 28, 1996 to meet with the Sanctuary Advisory Council;
- á The jetski buoys are all installed: educational brochures and signage are in the final production stages.

III. 1997 Sanctuary Currents Conference

CWG members discussed ideas for the Conservation Award to be presented at the Sanctuary Currents Symposium in March 1997.

The focus of the conference will be on facets of marine biological diversity. The event will be held on March 15, 1997 at the Coconut Grove in Santa Cruz. It will be a one-day conference with the morning dedicated to a panel discussion followed by two concurrent sessions: one focusing on research and the other

on applied biodiversity. The afternoon will feature poster sessions and the Edward Ricketts keynote address. Greg Cailliet, Chair of the Research Activity Panel will deliver the keynote address. An awards ceremony and reception will follow. The call for posters will be forthcoming. Posters need to address a biodiversity theme.

IV. CWG Meetings

CWG members discussed the logistics of rotating meeting locations throughout the Sanctuary. Rachel will come up with a list of meeting dates and locations for 1997 to bring to the November meeting.

Suggested topics for future meeting agendas include:

- á Discussion of ways to more effectively use local expertise: i.e.; for matters involving underwater acoustics studies. Andrew DeVogelaere, the MBNMS Research Coordinator will be invited to a future meeting to explain Sanctuary research objectives and the work of the Research Activity Panel.
- á Discussion of the Bay 20/20 plan for Economic Sustainability. CWG role could be to support more of the cooperative efforts.
- á A calendar of FSO events related to sea Otter recovery from January to March, 1997;
- á A discussion of the Steelhead potential listing;
- á A discussion of positive ways to deal with the Squid Fishery Issue; and,
- á Expanding CWG membership

V. Edward F. Ricketts Marine Reserve/Underwater Park

CWG members discussed in detail the recommendations of the Parks and Recreation Commission of the cities of Pacific Grove and Monterey. The recommendations will be presented to the City Councils of both cities and the topic will be addressed at a public hearing of the Councils in the very near future. In general, the Commissions suggested the following:

- á approved the concept and have stated that they are in support of the park's establishment;
- á supported the proposed boundaries.
- á supported prohibitions on spear fishing and hook & line fishing from skiffs and from shore, (Pacific Grove requested that hook and line be allowed by children). Other exemptions were granted to the squid fishing industry and kelp harvesters.

The Working Group also reviewed the draft recommendations to the proposal submitted by the Center for Marine Conservation. Comments of the CWG were as follows:

1. Prefer that the entire area be a no-take zone and urge the City Councils to be very careful in allowing too many exemptions to the regulation. However, the CWG agreed that, if push came to shove, the exemption for squid fishing did more to gain the support of the fishing community than it would do harm to the underwater park. CWG members recommended that there be some flexibility built in to the structure of the marine reserve that would allow the authorities to respond to future issues and greater knowledge of the park's impact and impact on the park. The Working Group stipulated that some kind of monitoring program be implemented.
2. Recommended that kelp harvesting be banned unless the kelp harvesters cooperative develop viable and realistic solutions for the issues surrounding the harvesting of kelp. The CWG commented that it supports mari-culture whenever possible, as long as viable conservation measures can be enforced.
3. CWG members agreed that spear fishing should be banned altogether.
4. CWG members agreed that hook & line fishing from shore and boats; for adults and children should be

prohibited.

5. Recommended that documentation be submitted explaining the necessity for collecting species for research and education purposes within the underwater park's boundaries. The CWG suggested that the Research Activity Panel develop a monitoring plan protocol and use the information provided by the plan. CWG members concurred with the Center for Marine Education's recommendation to allow permits for scientific and educational collecting permits in the park provided that it is consistent with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) regulations already in place. They further stipulated that non-destructive methods be used; that, when possible, collecting be done elsewhere; and that collecting only be allowed if it will have a negligible effect on the park. With respect to the proposed oversight committee for the park, the CWG commented that if a committee is truly deemed necessary, it should be community based.

CWG members recommended that permits granted for educational purposes be carefully tracked and reviewed in order to help CDFG assess permits.

Rachel will present the above recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Council at the October 25 meeting.

CWG members are urged to please attend the City Council meetings and to speak in support of the underwater park.

Finally, the Working Group observed that the impact of divers long-term recreational use should be monitored.. CWG members recommended that the diving community produce and implement a pro-active education program designed to educate divers about good diving practices that limit the amount of damage. For example, produce a "good diving practices brochure."

Jack requested that agenda topic for discussion of man-made noise in the Sanctuary be placed at the top of the November meeting agenda. CWG members were asked to forward comments on the issue to Jack Wickham.

The Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
MBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator

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